



**From the desk of Daryl Stout, WX1DER
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Re: Comments in Regard to RM-11775

I fully support the idea that holders of vanity callsigns should be REQUIRED to keep them for the 10 year term. While I was originally licensed as N5VLZ in 1991, then got the vanity callsign AE5WX in 2009, then changed to the vanity callsign of WX1DER in 2012 (both vanity callsigns required a fee), I surely wasn't going to do a “quick change”, whether there was a fee or not. The problem began when the fee was dropped, with some Extra Class hams now trying to tie up the rare 2x1 and 1x2 callsigns for at least 2 years...as if the “No Code Extras are inferior”.

I personally don't care if a ham is a Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra...whether or not they did a 5, 13, or 20 wpm CW exam (for the record, I tried a 5 wpm exam, but failed; that was before the CW requirement was dropped)...or whether they got their ticket today or before World War II. As long as they are licensed, that's all that matters to me. A 20 wpm Extra will get the same respect from me as a 5 wpm Novice, a no-Code Technician, a 13 wpm General, etc. would.

Ham Radio, like so many hobbies, is dying...as the young people of today could not care less about it...never mind studying for the no-Code Technician exam. We have to something to embrace the new technology and bring in new blood, to replace all those hams who are becoming Silent Keys, or letting their licenses lapse. And, we need to quit being so snobbish (i.e. you aren't a ham if you don't know CW)...that attitude turns people off and away.

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